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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/559,611	04/19/2006	Gilbert Ossbahr	82350	1507
26288	7590	10/04/2007	EXAMINER	
ALBIHNS STOCKHOLM AB BOX 5581, LINNEGATAN 2 SE-114 85 STOCKHOLM; SWEDEN STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN			AMIRI, NAHID	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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			10/04/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/559,611	Applicant(s) OSSBAHR, GILBERT	
	Examiner Nahid Amiri	Art Unit 3679	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 July 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5 and 6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5 and 6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 9 February 2007 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

In view of Applicant's Amendment received 26 October 2006, amendments to the claims have been entered. Claims 4 and 7 are canceled. Claims 1-3, 5, and 6 are pending.

Drawings

The drawings were received on 9 February 2007. These drawings are approved.

However, the drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "3" has been used to designate both "bolts" of Figs. 1-3 and the base of the "fixing plate 1" of Fig. 4. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

Claim 1 objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 1, lines 4 and 7, "a beam" should be changed to --the beam--; and line 5, "surface' the extent" should be changed to --surface that extends--; and line 9, "directions" should be changed to --directions,--.

Claim 1, line 13, it appear that a comma should be inserted after "plates".

Claims 2-, 3, 5 and 6, line 1, "A system" should be changed to --The system--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1, lines 5-6, it is unclear how "a first surface" of the fixing plate which extends in one direction could "corresponds to a multiple of one beam width".

Claim 1, line 6, the phrase "multiple of one beam width" it is unclear if Applicant set forth one beam width or setting forth multiple of beam width.

Claim 1, lines 4-5 and claim 3, line 1, "each fixing plate" should be changed to --each one of the fixing plates--.

Claim 1, there is no antecedent basis for "said second facing surfaces", line 12.

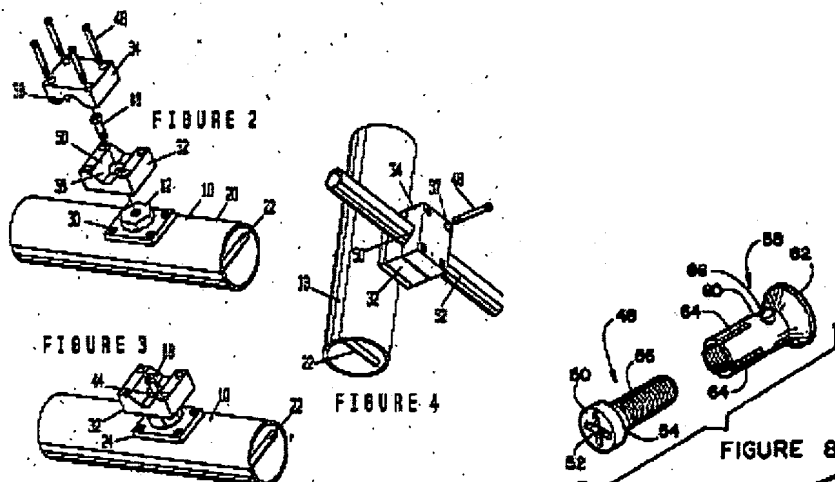
Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by US Patent No. 4,901,970 Moss et al. in view of US Patent No. 5,873,564 Bisch.

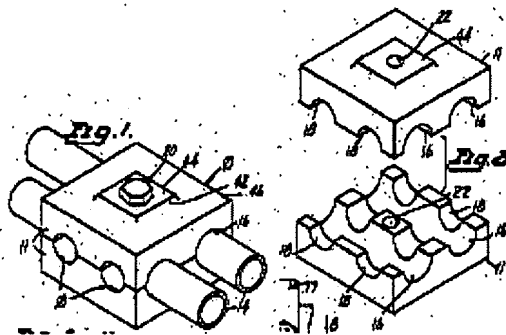
With respect to claims 1, 2, and 6, Moss et al. discloses a system (Figs. 2-4) for detachable joining of beams (52, 10) comprising two or more fixing plates (32, 34) mountable in pairs on opposite sides of a beam (52) and fixable along the beam by a friction joint maintained by tightening screw (48), each fixing plate (32, 34) comprising a first surface (S) that extends in at least one direction corresponds to a multiple of one beam width, and a second surface (S') which is adapted to face away from the beam (52) and which is bearable against the second surface (S') of a fixing plate (14) in a different pair of fixing plates when two or more beams (52, 10) are arranged to be joined in perpendicular and/or parallel directions. Moss et al. do disclose that the tightening elements are bolts; and relative positions of said fixing plates in different pairs being fixed by locking elements in recess in a second facing surfaces of the fixing plates, and wherein the locking elements also anchoring the tightening bolts; wherein the locking elements are made of inner threaded sleeves and sleeves have longitudinal slots. Bisch teaches a system (Fig. 8) including a tightening member is bolt (48); and a locking element (58) having a threaded sleeve (60) with a longitudinal slot (64). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to provide the system of Moss et al. with a bolt and threaded sleeve with a longitudinal slot as taught by Bisch in order to create a rigid connection between two members.



Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moss et al. and Bisch as applied to claims 1, 2, and 6 above, and further in view of 4,597,690 Girard.

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With respect to claim 3, Moss et al. disclose the claimed invention except that the one each one of the fixing plates comprises projections arranged at each corners of the plate. Girard teaches a system (Figs. 1, 2) having fixing plates (11), and wherein each one of the fixing plates (11) comprises projections (P) arranged at each corners of the plates (11). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to provide each corner of the fixing plates of Watkins with a projection as taught by Bisch in order to create a rigid connection between two members for receiving a multiple beam members.



Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 5 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

As to claims 5, lines 1-3, the closest prior art Moss et al. (US 4,901,970) discloses the claimed system with the exception of having wedges, extending from the projections are arranged to fix the position of the beams in a transverse direction in the friction joint, whereby a shape determined locking of the beams is achieved.

There is no teaching or suggestion, absent the applicants' own disclosure, for one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the connector device as disclosed by Moss et al. (US 4,901,970) to have the above mentioned elemental features.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action, e.g., claim 1, lines 4-8, the limitation of "each fixing plate comprises a first surface, the extent of which in at least one direction corresponds to a multiple of one beam width and a second surface, which is adapted to face away from a beam and which is bearable against the second surface of the a fixing plate in a different pair of fixing plates", was not claimed in original claimed invention. Accordingly, THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nahid Amiri whose telephone number is (571) 272-8113. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:30. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571) 272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

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system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Nahid Amiri
Examiner
Art Unit 3679
September 19, 2007



DANIEL P. STODOLA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

Drawing
 approved
 9.19.02
 ma

1/7

Replacement sheet

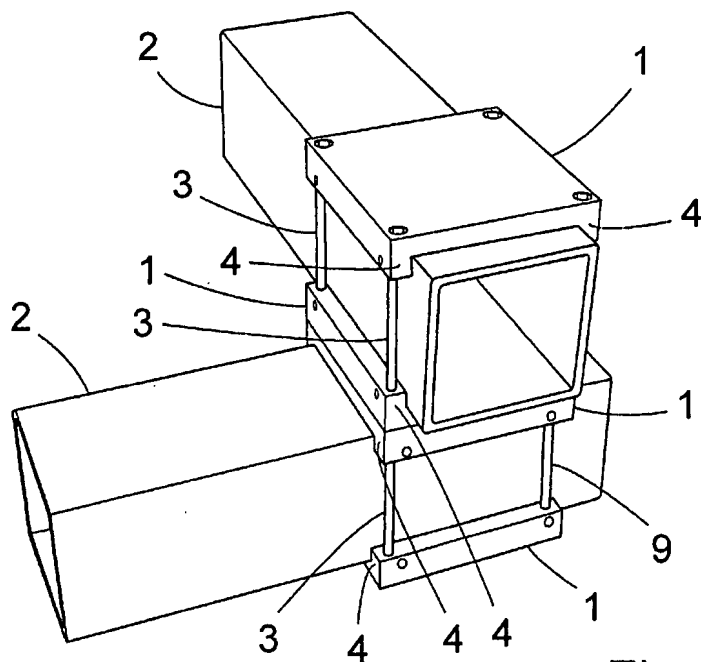


Fig.1

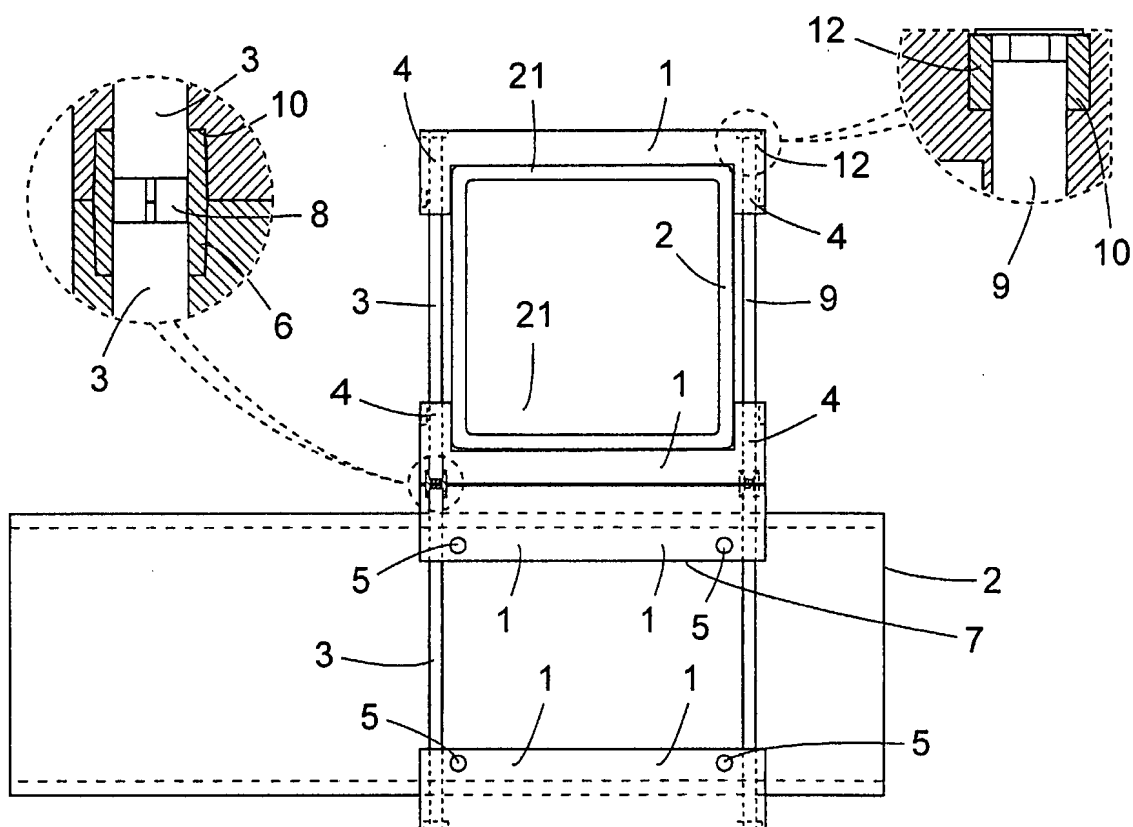


Fig.2